

her eyes all the time and every now and then one rolled down her cheeks, which were as fair and firm as a girl's, despite her age.

**Liquor Account Scanned.**  
Miss Ethel Brown, a bookkeeper of the Roanoke Wine & Liquor Co., was the first witness called in rebuttal by the State. Mr. Lee at once offered in evidence the original count, of Vawter with the liquor house.

Mr. Colburn objected strenuously, and the jury went out while counsel argued over the point.

Mr. Lee declared the evidence was admissible, because it showed, contrary to testimony by defense witnesses, that Vawter had not been drinking more than usual in May, 1916, when Vawter said he first suspected his wife of improprieties with Heth.

After a lengthy argument, Judge Moffett ruled that the evidence was admissible.

Mr. Lee simply had her identify pages from the company's books showing Vawter's account from November, 1910, to October 31, 1916.

Under cross-examination, Mr. Colburn attempted to get her to say that Vawter had dealt with other firms. He also questioned her as to whether Vawter's brother had purchased much liquor on the professor's account.

**Tried to Limit Orders.**  
Miss Brown was excused from the witness stand, but was recalled following the introduction by the defense of a letter from Prof. Vawter, telling the liquor house not to allow his brother to phone in orders on his account.

Under redirect examination she said that the brother at one time had an account of his own with the house.

Under recross-examination Colburn tried to get her to admit that Vawter's brother had constantly phoned and mailed liquor orders to be charged to the professor's account.

Colburn introduced other letters, showing how Vawter's brother had bought quantities from the house, and mailed liquor orders to be charged to the professor's account.

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erably, she never regarded him as a drunkard.

Briefly summarized, Mrs. Vawter's testimony was that she had been in Heth's room for two hours on the night her husband caught her coming out of there last May; that her relations with Heth while she was in the room were improved; that, afterward, in November, she had been guilty of improper conduct with Heth, and in order to avert the suspicions of her husband she had put the blame on a woman who was visiting her when Prof. Vawter noticed things that caused him to ask questions.

Finally, she admitted that she was in Heth's room on the night of the shooting about 10 or 15 minutes just before the shooting, but she declared that Heth had come to her door, caught her and dragged her in when she went into the hall to get medicine for one of her children.

On top of all this she admitted that she was completely under the influence of Heth, or, as she expressed it, he had gained her affection.

**Like a Pettish Child.**  
She also contended that she had never been indiscreet with him, except when she had been drinking, and she swore that she was intoxicated that night in May when she left Prof. Vawter drunk on the parlor sofa.

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## Mrs. Vawter Immolates Herself

Commonwealth, Defense, and Court Fail In Effort To Save "Wonder Woman" From Baring Soul Before Morbid Crowd.

By R. B. BERNHARD.

CHRISTIANSBURG, Va., May 4.—Opposing sides in a murder case united in a common cause, trying to save a woman's reputation, and falling—that is the amazing spectacle presented in the trial of Charles E. Vawter, Blacksburg professor, for the murder of Stockton Heth, Jr.

When the court recessed for lunch yesterday everybody believed the end of the trial had been reached. Every one knew that the Commonwealth, the defense, and the judge, with true Virginia spirit, were willing to do anything in their power and more to save Mrs. Vawter from the ordeal of testifying about her shame before a crowded court room.

Everyone knew that every effort would be made to compromise the case to save her.

**Rejects Sacrifice Offer.**  
But their efforts failed.

Among those who feel strongly in favor of the defense, the statement is made with apparent authority that, when told that no agreement could be reached, Vawter volunteered to accept the proposition advanced by the Commonwealth of commitment to the asylum for the criminal insane at Marion, Va., to keep his wife off the stand, and that she refused to accept his sacrifice.

Whether this be true or not, it is common gossip in Christiansburg that Judge Moffett threw his weight in the balance and urged the compromise, either a verdict of "not guilty because of insanity" at the time of the act, or "not guilty because of insanity now," or "not guilty because of insanity then."

Some trivial difference tied them up and the compromise was banished. Mrs. Vawter took the stand.

Men who have followed hundreds of criminal cases, men who know more about the psychology of the court than can ever be printed, stood amazed at her testimony.

For three and a half hours, a delicately nurtured woman, a beautiful woman, a woman of the highest social position, sat before a throng made up for the greatest part of ignorant, morbid sensation seekers, and never flinched as she testified so intimately on such sacred subjects that a veteran of hundreds of murder trials lost his composure and averted his face.

**Something Quite New.**  
The criminal annals of America are the most prolific of any in the world; yet they show not a single case parallel to the testimony of Mrs. Vawter. America has had its Nan Pattersons, its Evelyn Thawes, its Reuland Blinfords—there was nothing really new in any of them—and Mrs. Vawter gave something absolutely new. She is the great enigma of a case of enigmas.

In all of little Christiansburg today there is not a single tongue that is not talking about her performance of yesterday—how she sat composed and dry-eyed, and said: "Yes, I suppose I did act improperly with Stockton Heth that night; but I was too much under the influence of drink to remember much."

She sat there, beautiful, with the beauty of a Madonna, yet without the Madonna's maturity, for all her thirty-three years, and as she testified there was just the touch of the theatrical.

Was she natural? A great woman, if not a good one, making more than the supreme sacrifice for a man whom she did not love? Or was she the greatest of all actresses, enjoying the sensation caused by her presentation of a wonderfully rehearsed part?

That was the question. Yet the next moment she made the doubter ashamed of his doubts.

**Trying to Tell Truth.**  
It was Special Prosecutor Lee, at the height of his triumph as one of the shrewdest cross-examiners in America, who was questioning her. Gentle with the gentleness of a real man, yet fighting like a demon for the Commonwealth, he put some questions she was unable to answer.

"I'm trying to tell you the truth," she cried, grieved for the second out of her composure, "and yet you are just trying to twist me up."

"No, madam," he replied, with the

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## HOOVER TO REPORT ON ALLY FOOD SUPPLY

Belgian Relief Commission Chairman to Confer With Wilson.

Herbert C. Hoover, chairman of the American Belgium relief commission, arrived in Washington this morning to deliver his report on the food condition of all the allied nations of Europe, and to place his services at the disposal of the United States Government in connection with the food conservation campaign.

Mr. Hoover spent the morning visiting personal friends, but has appointments with several Cabinet officers regarding the work he is expected to undertake.

The report Mr. Hoover is to make to President Wilson is an exhaustive study of the economic condition of all the allied nations, containing information as to the ways the United States can be of most immediate service to our allies.

Mr. Hoover was accompanied to the United States by Benjamin S. Allen, a newspaper man of London, who is going to take over the work of the Belgian relief commission.

According to Mr. Allen, the English and the French have placed in their armies the last available man, and even men supposed to be not subject to the draft have been sent to the front. England now has an army of 5,000,000 men, about 2,500,000 of whom are on the front line in France and Belgium.

About 1,000 Belgians are escaping from Germany every month, said Mr. Allen. Since the deportation of large numbers of Belgians a class of smugglers has sprung up along the border who, for a sum of money, or for patriotic reasons, agree to smuggle Belgians back to France or the unoccupied portions of Belgium.

"The food situation in Belgium and northern France requires every effort we can make," said Mr. Hoover. "Wheat and corn are needed badly, and also pork and beef. The commission for Belgian relief by March 1 had struggled to its feet again, after receiving the knockout blow of the submarine decree of February 1."

"Since March 1 we have lost five million tons of foodstuffs," said Mr. Hoover. "The situation is desperate, and we must do something to help."

And Lee was the unhappy man in the whole court room when he was forced to deliver into Mrs. Vawter's hands the demand that she tell how she smothered a woman friend's character to save her own; viciously satirical as it was when it lashed the woman's character, it was nevertheless a fair and just demand.

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loaded boats, but in March and April 60,000 tons of foodstuffs were landed. But this 60,000 was 220,000 tons less than we actually required. The children, however, did not suffer. They are always looked after first."

**CORPS TO MOBILIZE**  
Local Volunteers May Soon Leave for French Battlefields.

According to information received from District Red Cross headquarters today, plans are being made for the immediate mobilization of the ambulance corps being formed by Dr. Ryan Devereux.

It was intended to await full enlistment before mobilizing the company, but developments whereby every ambulance available is to be sent to Europe at once have led to plans for the immediate mobilization and training of the local company.

Dr. Devereux has been receiving large numbers of applications for enlistment in the company from out-of-town men. Up to the present he has declined these applications, as he is desirous of recruiting the company among Washington men. So far, among Washington men, only a few have volunteered, but out-of-town enlistments probably will be accepted soon.

**COLLEGE WOMEN TO ELECT.**  
The annual election of the board of managers of the College Women's Club, will be held at a meeting of the organization in its club rooms, 1004 F street northwest, tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock.

**TEST FOR ORDNANCE POSTS.**  
An examination for the position of assistant inspectors of ordnance, paying from \$800 to \$1,200 a year, will be held by the Civil Service Commission

## MANY CONGRATULATE EDUCATOR THURSTON

Re-elected Head of District Schools by Vote of 5 to 4.

Congratulations from individuals and organizations representing hundreds of persons are today inundating the office of Ernest L. Thurston, yesterday re-elected superintendent of schools for the ensuing three years by a vote of five to four.

Many of the letters and telephone messages received are from persons who sought to have Mr. Thurston defeated.

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